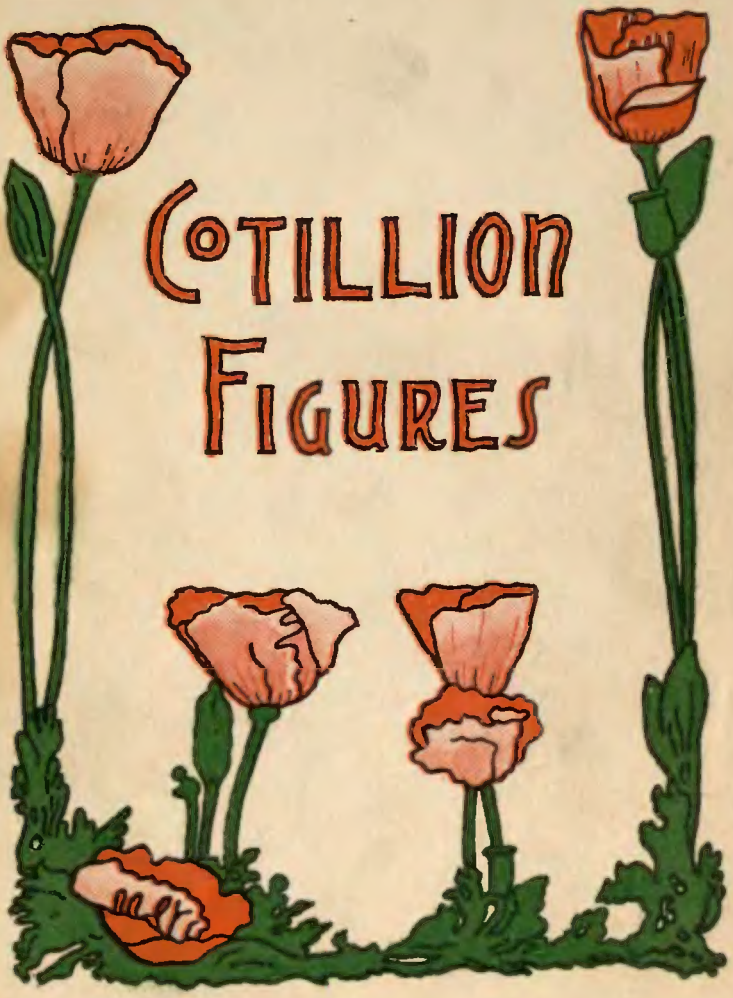
COTILLION FIGURES



Cotillion Figures

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By

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1911

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M. C. W. Sept. 29

PREFACE

In preparing this little booklet the author had constantly in mind the essential factors necessary to enable a novice to lead his first cotillion in the most approved style. Even with an experienced leader it would be very satisfactory to have in hand the diagram and notes to be referred to before starting each figure. From about fifty figures contributed by well known leaders, twenty-four of the very best and simplest have been selected, which makes it possible to lead at least two cotillions without going through the same figure twice.

The author hopes that this booklet will find its way into many ball-rooms, and add greatly to the beauty of the figures and the pleasure of those present.

J. H. W.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Two things have to be taken into consideration in leading a cotillion—one is number of couples, and the other is the size of the hall. In selecting his figures the leader should be largely guided by these two factors. On a dance-card for a cotillion the dances are divided into leads and breaks. The leader, who should have entire charge of the floor and music, blows his whistle for the lead, and after dancing around the room once or possibly twice, he blows for the break. The music should not stop here but as fast as the men find their partners for the break, they should dance off. As soon as the leader sees that the couples are all paired off he should blow for the figure, and the music stops while he takes his position on the left of his partner at the front of the hall. All the other couples should fall in line immediately, but it is sometimes necessary for the leader to call out to those not paying attention to fall in line. He now signals to the musicians to start a march and goes through with the figure, blowing his whistle when it is completed. The couples then dance off while music keeps on until leader blows for end of the dance.

If the dancers are slow and inattentive, make the music fast and lead a figure on the jump to wake them up. The leader should turn sharp curves, and never let the couples get strung out or crowded up if possible. He should always endeavor to give the couple immediately behind him a good cue before starting.

In the diagrams the ladies are represented by circles and are in red, while the men are represented by crosses and are in black. It is important sometimes to know where the leading man and leading lady are, so the leader is distinguished by a circle around the cross, and his partner by a circle in a circle. In going through a figure the floor is generally covered about three or four times and it would be impossible to show the whole diagram on one floor space, so each figure is given four quadrants marked "A," "B," "C" and "D" respectively. In "B" the figure is taken up where it is left off in "A," and in "C" where it is left off in "B." The letter "W" is placed by the leader in the last quadrant at the point where he should blow the whistle for the end of the figure. Only a few couples are shown in each case, to prevent confusion, and the lines indicate the position of couples at all times; the arrows in the lines indicating the direction in which the couples are moving. It is always desirable to string out the couples as much as possible just before the end of figure, so that they can dance off with ease.

Cotillion Figures

Figure No. 1.

"A." Couples alternate right and left, leader always turning to left. Come up in fours.

"B." One column turns to left, other three to right and come up in fours.

"C." One column turns to right and other three to left and come up in fours.

"D." Go down in two columns and break as shown.

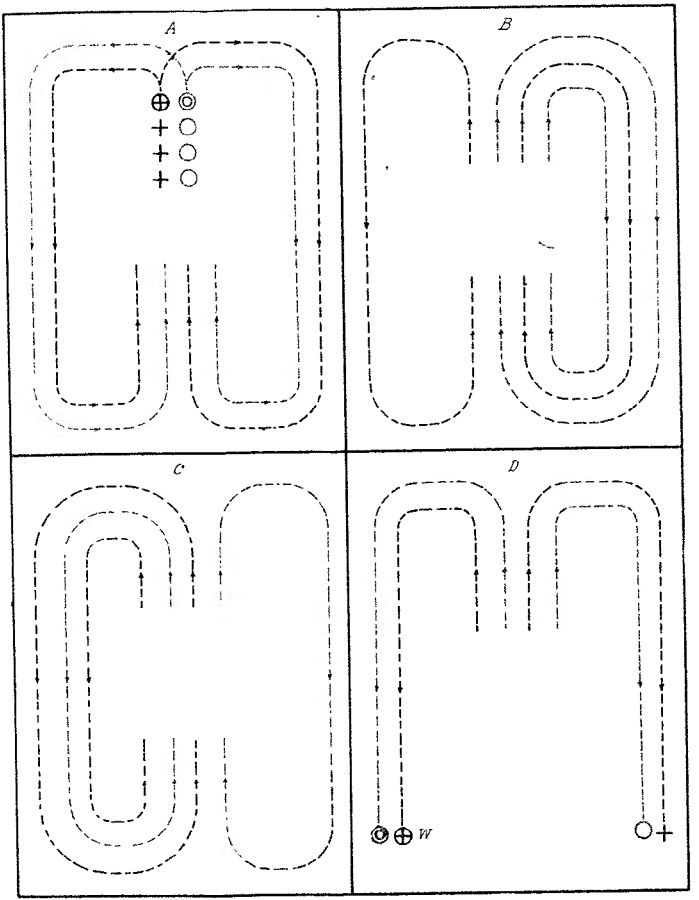
A
B
C
D
W

Figure No. 2.

"A." Men to left, ladies to right.

"B." Lines cross and recross as shown, first a lady and then her partner.

"C." Partners meet and couples alternate right and left and break as shown.

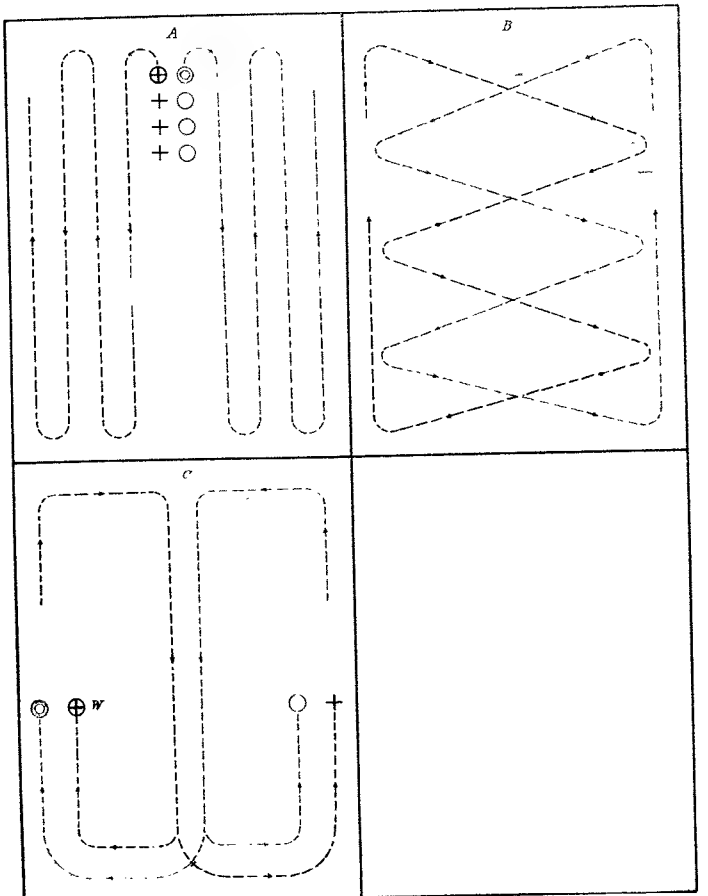
A
B
C
W

Figure No. 3.

"A." Couples alternate right and left and form two lines, first a man and then a lady, then come up in column of two men and two ladies.

"B." Couples alternate, men to left, ladies to right, one column of men halt and wait while column headed by leader meets ladies and passes back through taking one on each arm, the men behind him doing likewise.

"C." After making snake, ladies pass by waiting partners who join them.

"D." Break as shown.

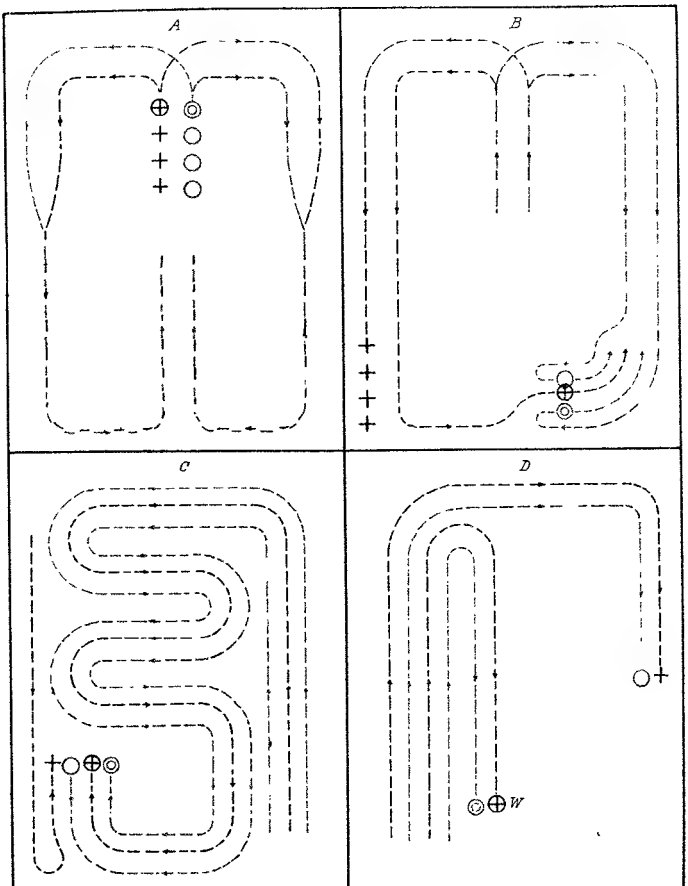
A
B
C
D
W

Figure No. 4.

"A." Couples alternate right and left, leader leaves his partner and takes other line of ladies as shown.

"B." Couples meet as shown and ladies get their partners back.

"C." Break as shown.

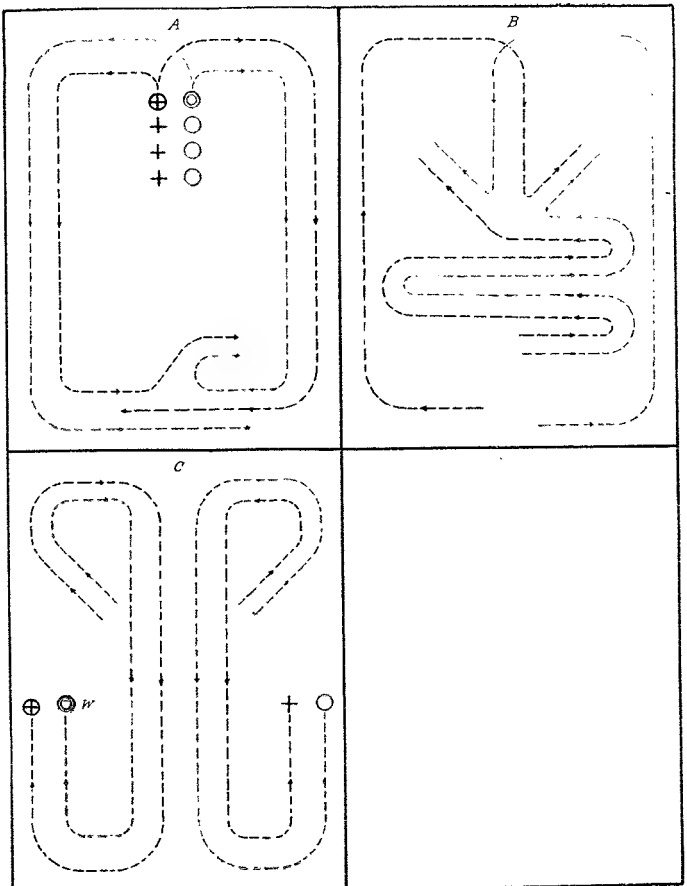
A
B
C
W

Figure No. 5.

"A." Couples alternate right and left and come up in fours.

"B." First four go back between each line and each set of four tags on to the end of the snake. It is important here that the leader goes all the way out to the wall at each turn.

"C." Come up in column and break.

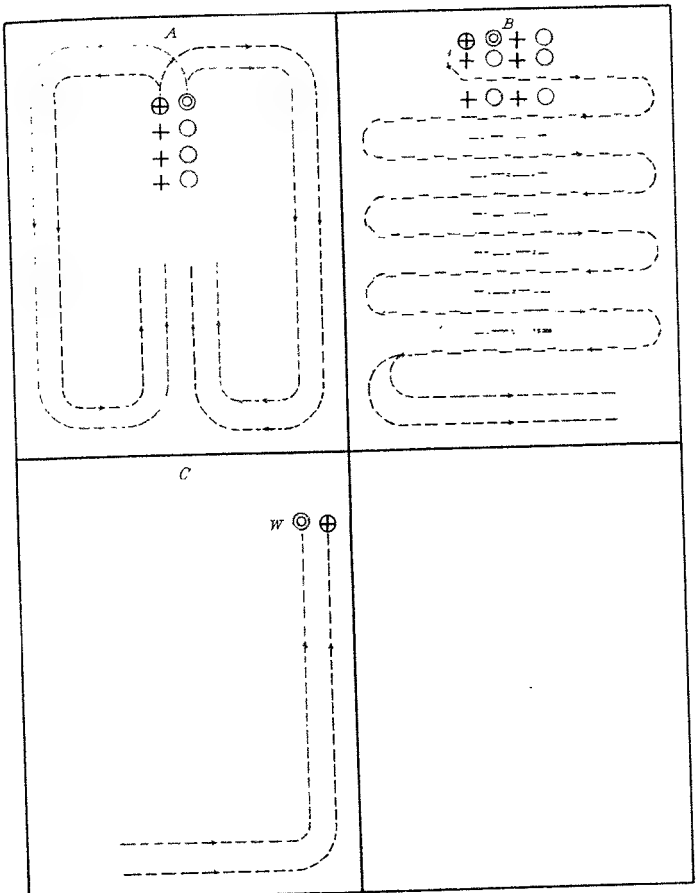
A
B
C
W

Figure No. 6.

"A." Couples alternate right and left and turn half way to side walls alternating again at other end of hall, coming up in four columns of twos.

"B." Two outside columns meet and split through and inside columns turn in and go down in fours.

"C." Fours separate and outside columns split through.

"D." Break as shown.

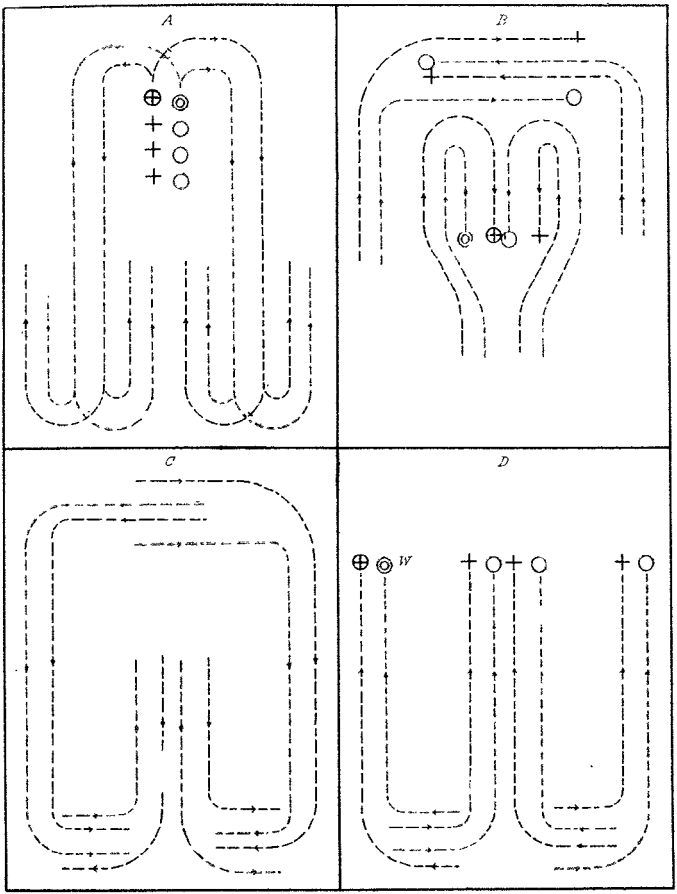
A
B
C
D
IV

Figure No. 7.

"A." Couples alternate right and left and come up in fours.

"B." Fours separate and meet half way of hall, each column turning to corners of hall as shown.

"C." Columns cross, meet partners and pass in center of hall.

"D." Break as shown.

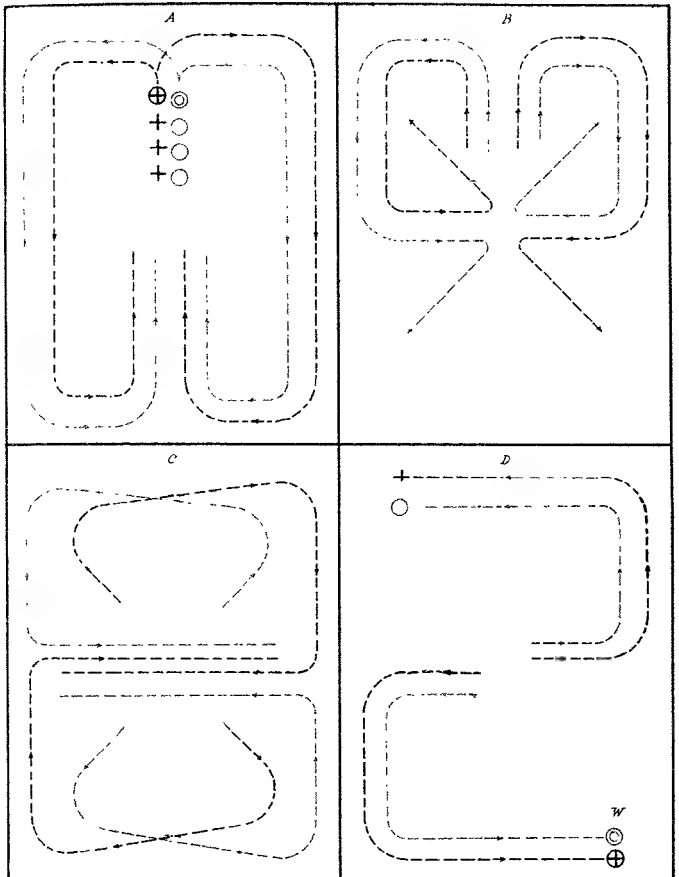
A
B
C
D
W

Figure No. 8.

"A." Couples turn to left and men form snake while ladies form circle around.

"C." Leader joins his partner, and couples follow as shown and break.

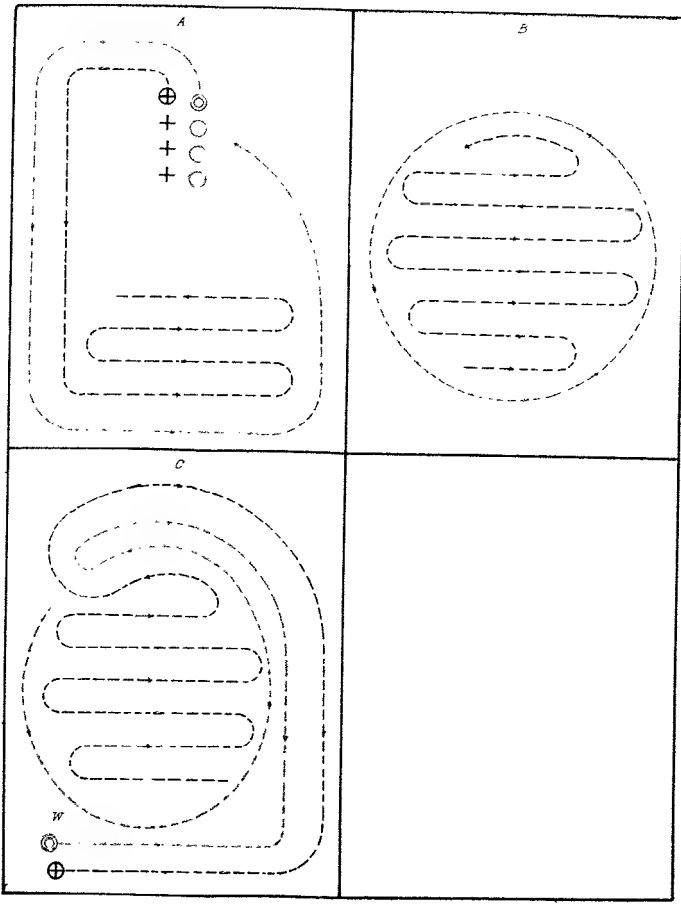
A
B
C
W

Figure No. 9.

"A." Couples alternate right and left, inside columns turn back and outside columns keep straight ahead.

"B." Inside columns cross in middle of hall, outside columns meet and turn down middle of hall.

"C." Inside columns meet and turn up hall.

"D." Partners meet and break as shown.

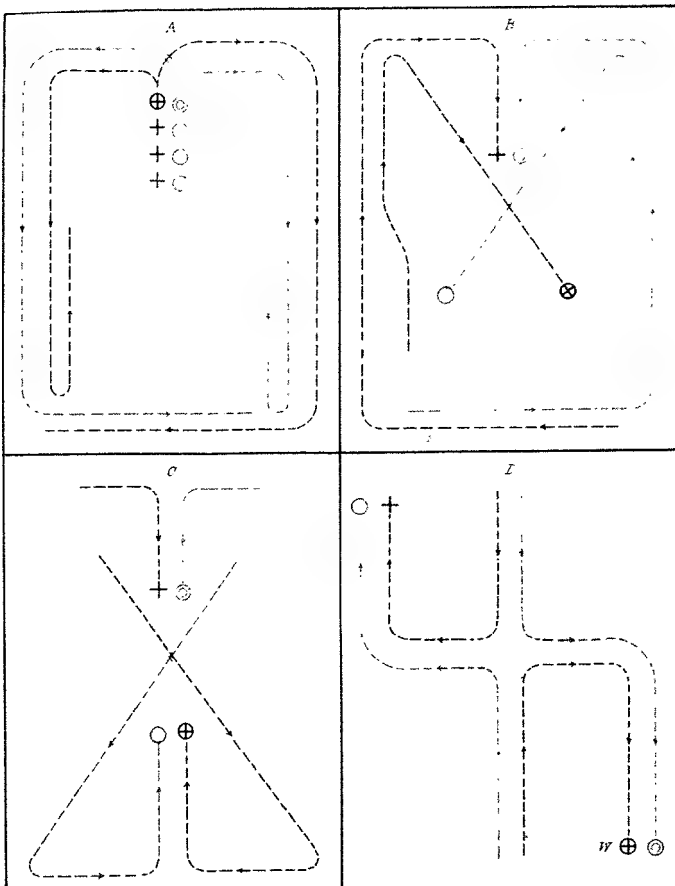
A
B
C
E
W

Figure No. 10.

"A." Couples alternate right and left, left column turning back as shown.

"B." Columns split through.

"C." Couples separate and form four squares.

"D." This figure is not complete, as the couples will have to change partners again in order to get their original partners before breaking.

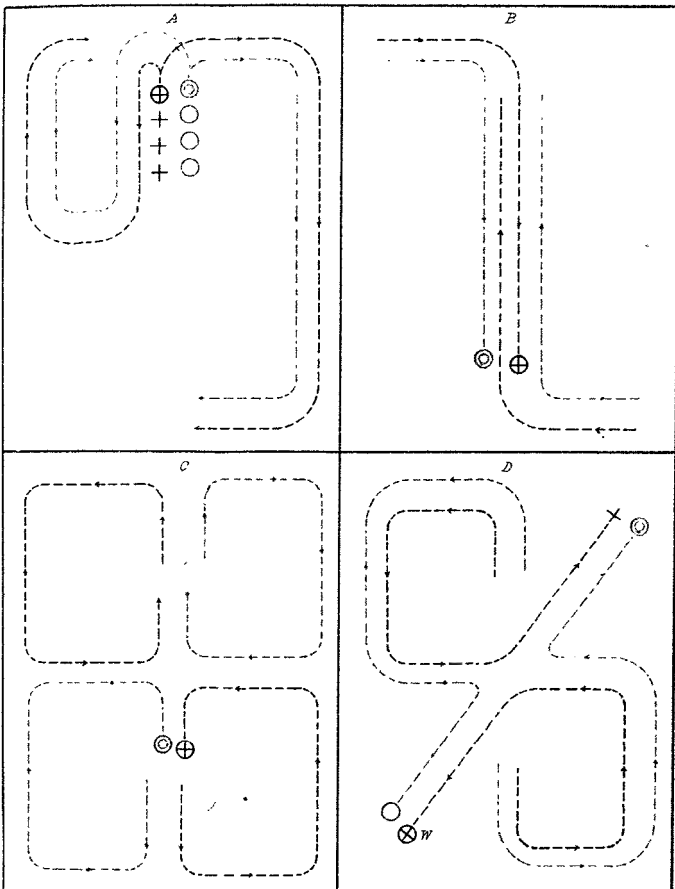
A
B
C
D
W

Figure No. 11.

"A." Couples alternate right and left and cross in middle of hall.

"B." Partners separate and join opposite columns, and come down middle of hall.

"C." Partners meet again and break.

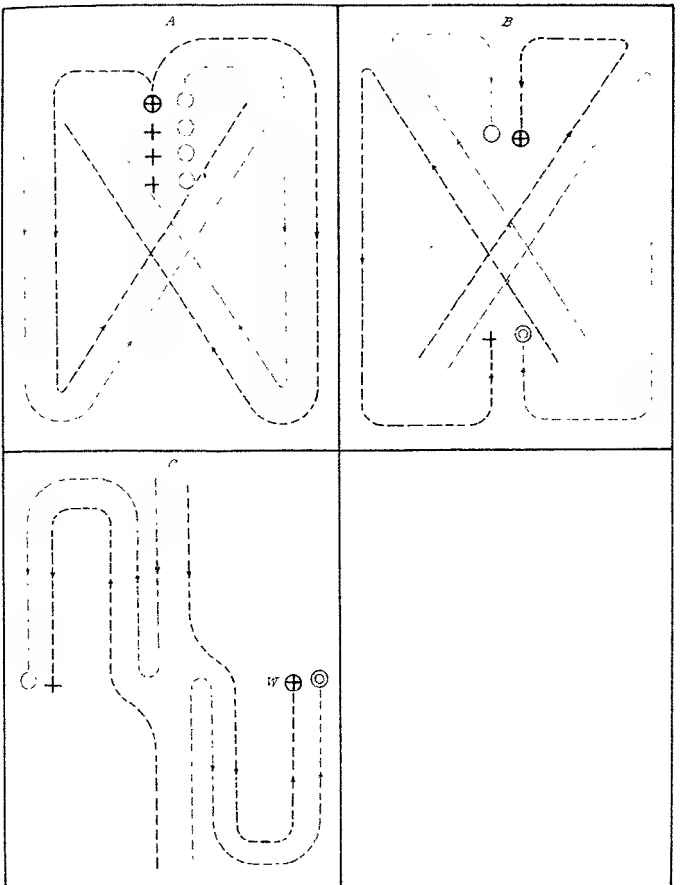
A
B
C
W

Figure No. 12.

"A." Couples alternate right and left and form single column, coming up middle of hall in column of two men and two ladies.

"B." Couples alternate, ladies to right, men to left, and change as shown, at opposite end of hall.

"C." Partners meet and split through.

"D." Break.

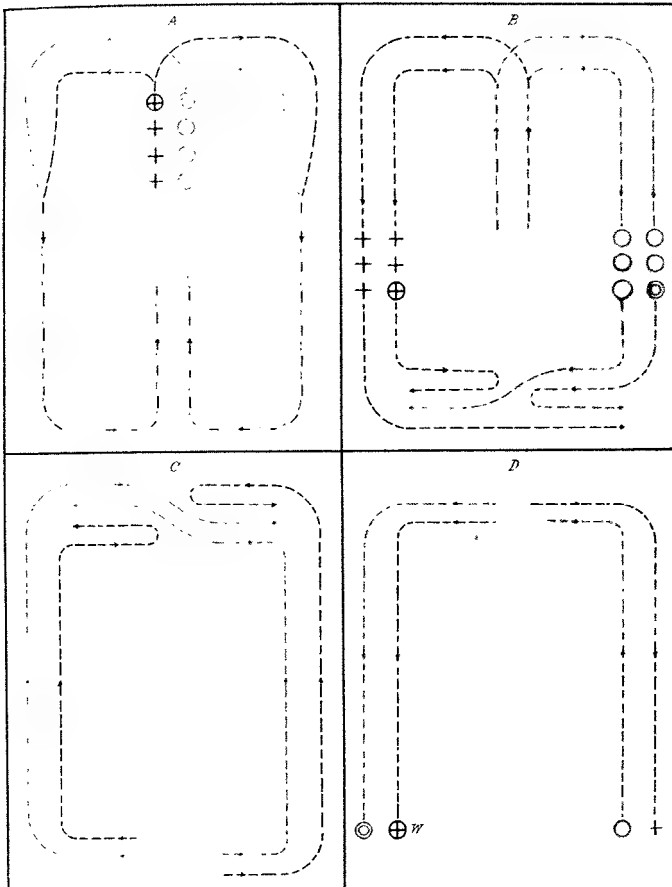
A
B
C
D
W

Figure No. 13.

"A." Before starting figure, put every other man on right side of lady. Couples alternate right and left and come up in fours.

"B." Ladies turn in and go back, men turn out and join ladies again at other end of hall.

"C." Both columns turn in, men turn in again at other end of hall.

"D." Men join ladies and break as shown.

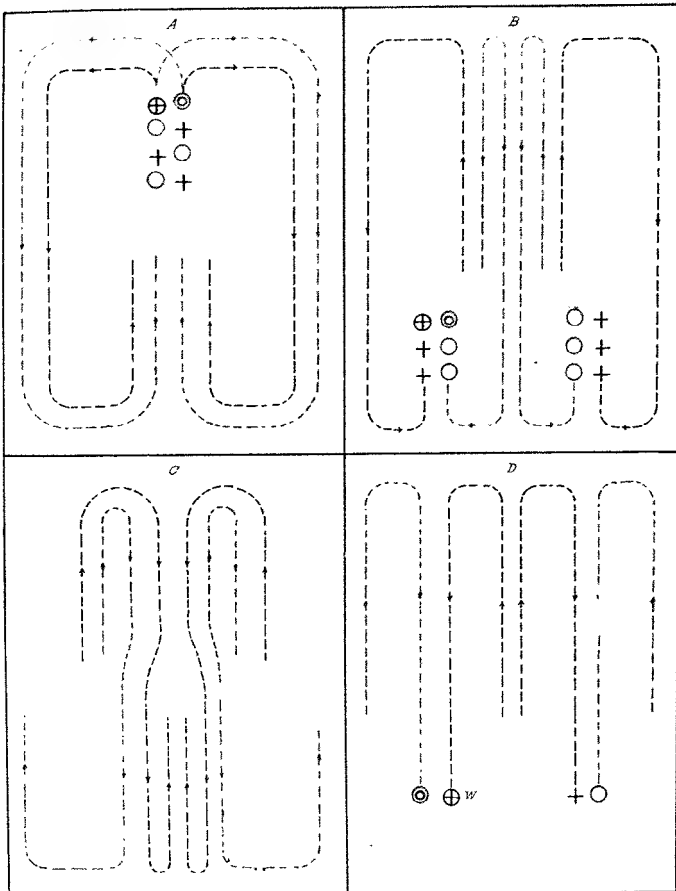
A
B
C
D
W

Figure No. 14.

"A." Men to left, ladies to right, and form snake up and down hall.

"B." Continue across hall, and couples alternate at front end of hall.

"C." Break as shown.

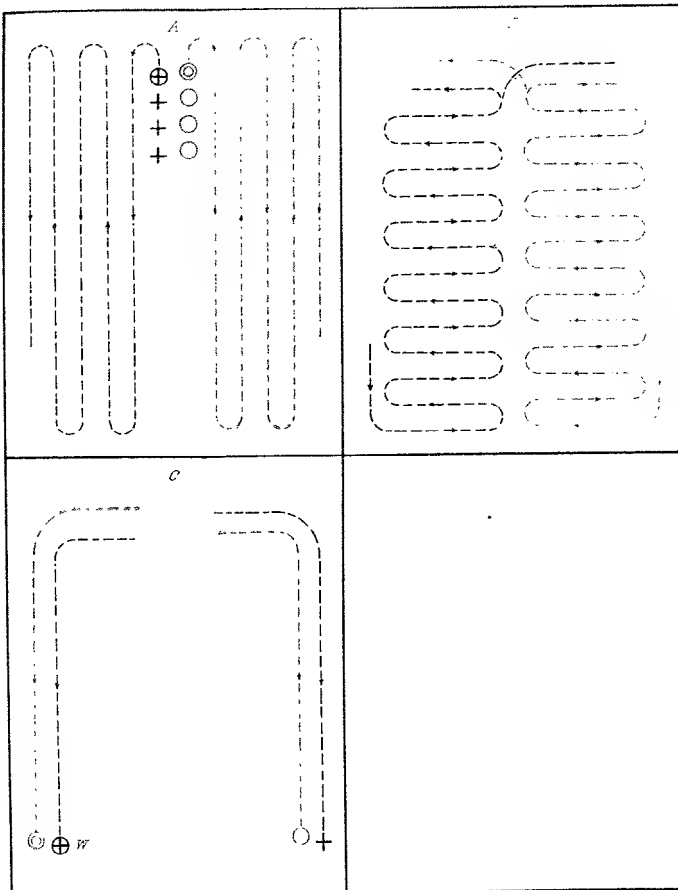
A
C
W

Figure No. 15.

"A." Couples alternate right and left and alternate again at other end of hall, coming up in four columns of twos.

"B." Columns turn in and go down in two columns of fours as shown.

"C." Come up in eights and break.

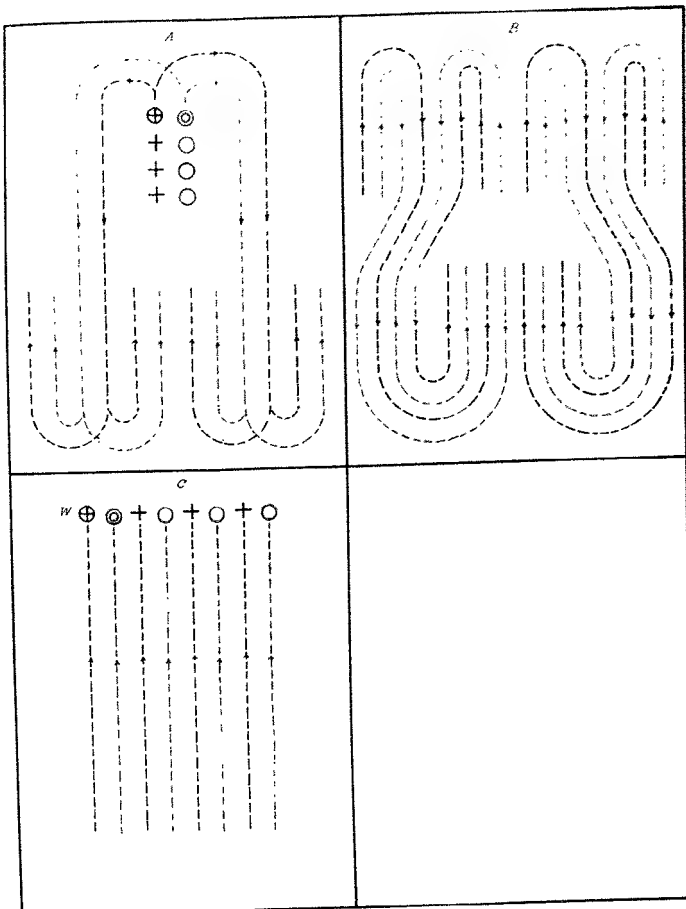
A
B
C
W

Figure No. 16.

"A." Ladies to right, men to left.

"B." Men form circle outside, ladies inside and march in opposite directions.

"C." Men stop opposite partners, and put arms over heads of ladies and in front of them, forming the basket figure. Break from this position.

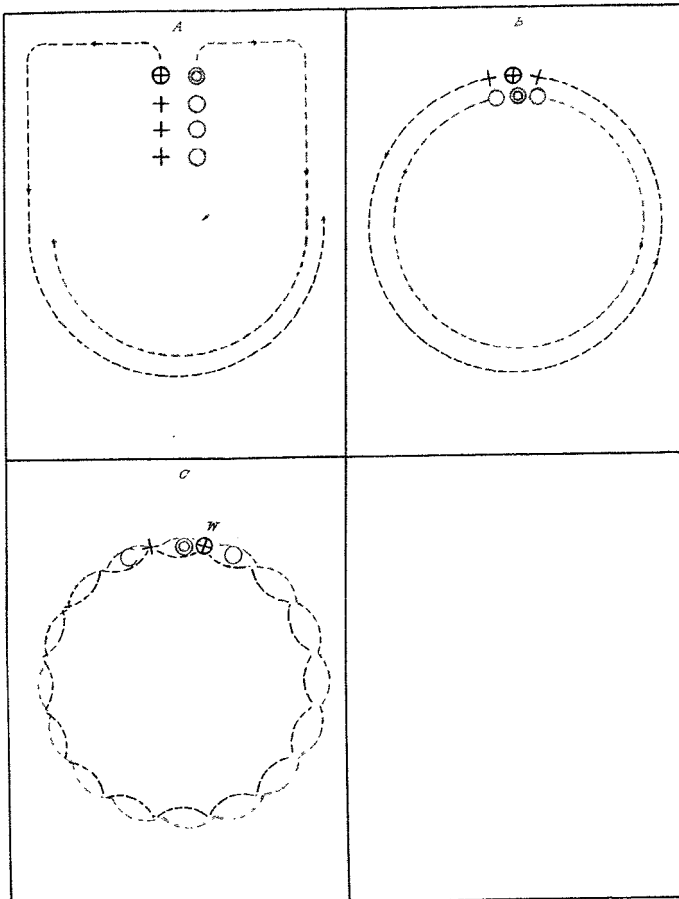
A
B
C
W

Figure No. 17.

"A." Couples alternate right and left and come up in fours.

"B." Fours alternate and come up in eights.

"C." Go down in fours again, and fall into columns of twos before breaking.

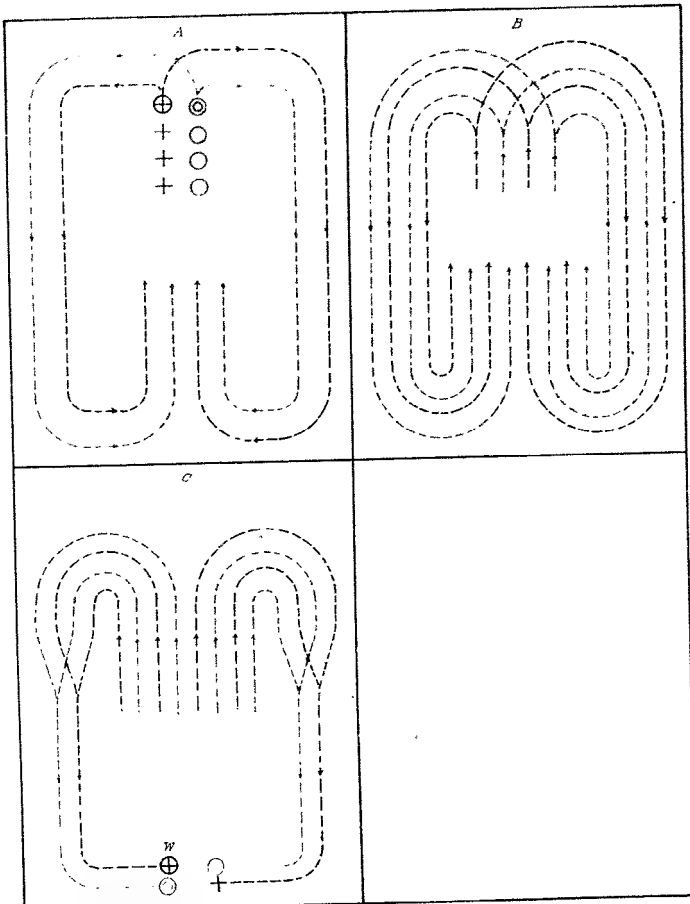
A
B
C
W

Figure No. 18.

"A." Couples alternate right and left and meet in center of hall, then columns turn to four corners of hall.

"B." Columns turn in, and cross as shown, meeting their partners.

"C." Columns pass as shown and break.

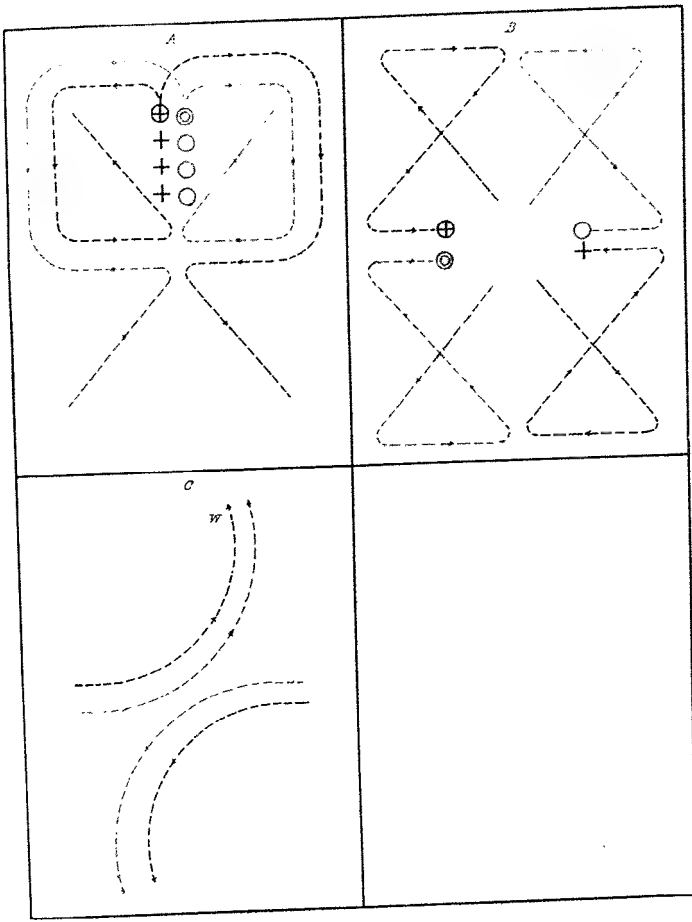
A
B
C
W

Figure No. 19.

"A." Couples alternate right and left and meet in center of hall, change partners and go to opposite corners of hall.

"B." Turn in, meet again at center of hall, change partners and go to opposite corners of hall, and turn in to center of hall again.

"C." Partners meet, turn off, and break as shown.

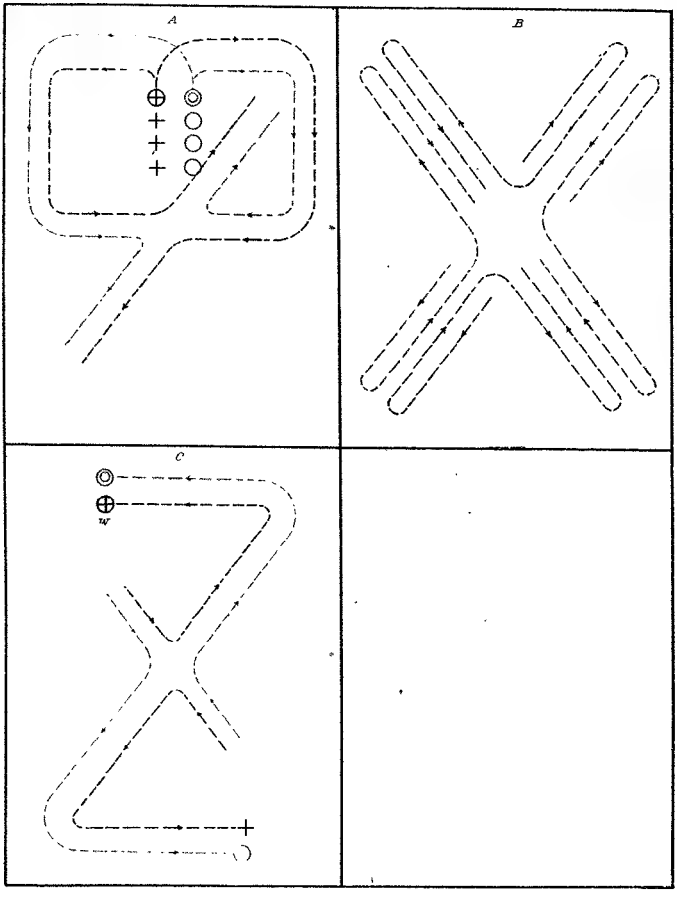
A
B
C
W

Figure No. 20.

"A." Couples alternate right and left, forming two single columns.

"B." Form two spirals and be careful not to wind so tight that they can't be unwound. Form column of twos before breaking. If crowd is small, lead all couples into one single column and form single spiral.

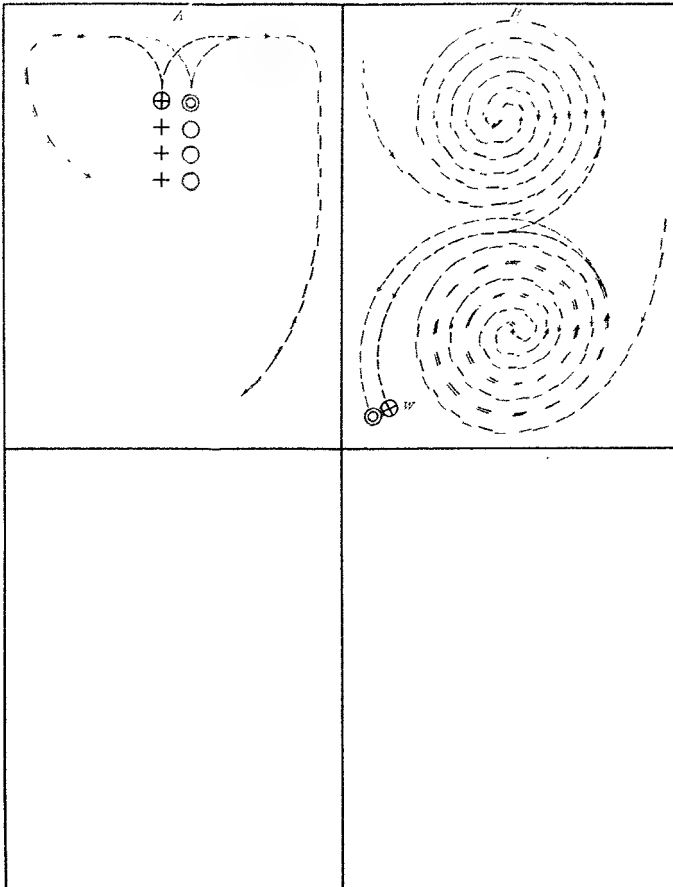

Figure No. 21.

"A." Count the number of men before starting figure so as to divide them up into four equal columns, then ladies to right, men to left.

"B." Four columns of men form cross and face direction in which ladies are moving, while ladies form circle around men. Men join hands across in center and tag on to ladies at other end of columns, thus forming a wheel and turning at the same time.

"C." Wheel stops, leader takes first column out by his partner and other columns follow in proper order.

"D." Break as shown.

It is important in starting this figure that the leader count each column of men and lead them to their position facing them in the right direction.

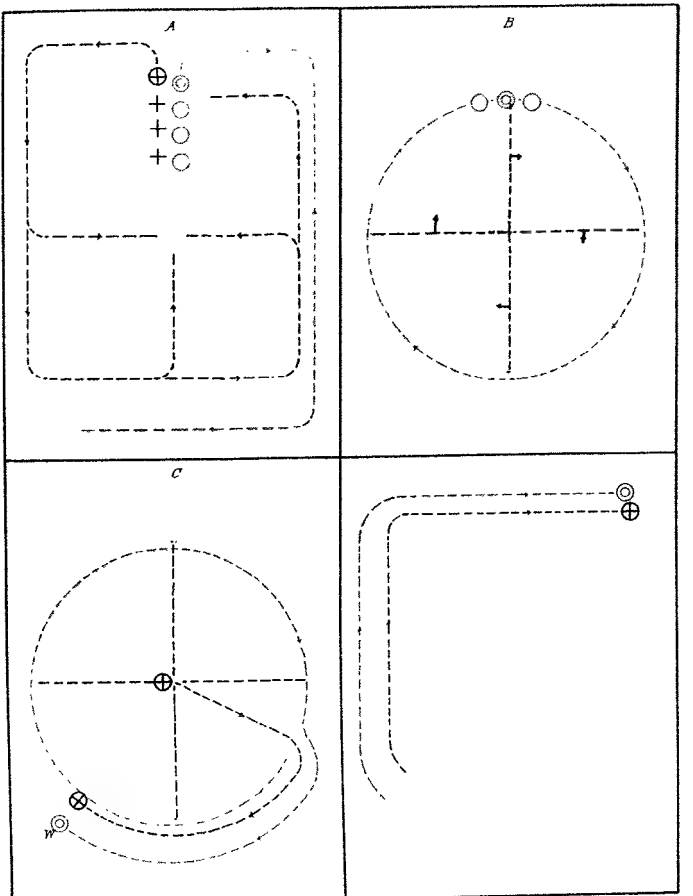
A
B
C
W

Figure No. 22.

"A." Ladies to right, men to left, turning back at other end of hall and passing in center as shown.

"B." Make square as shown and columns meet from diagonal corners of hall, partners joining and couples alternating as shown.

"C." Break.

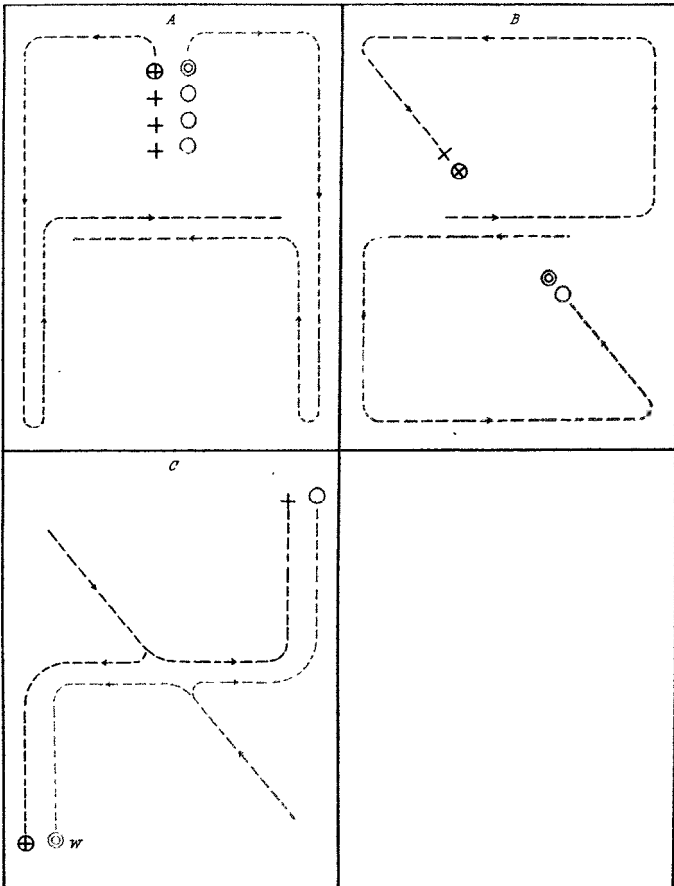
A
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Figure No. 23.

"A." Couples turn to left and form snake as shown. Half way up hall men turn back in loops of snake and ladies keep ahead.

"B." Partners join and form semi-circle.

"C." Columns turn in and go back through. Do not break figure until all couples have joined.

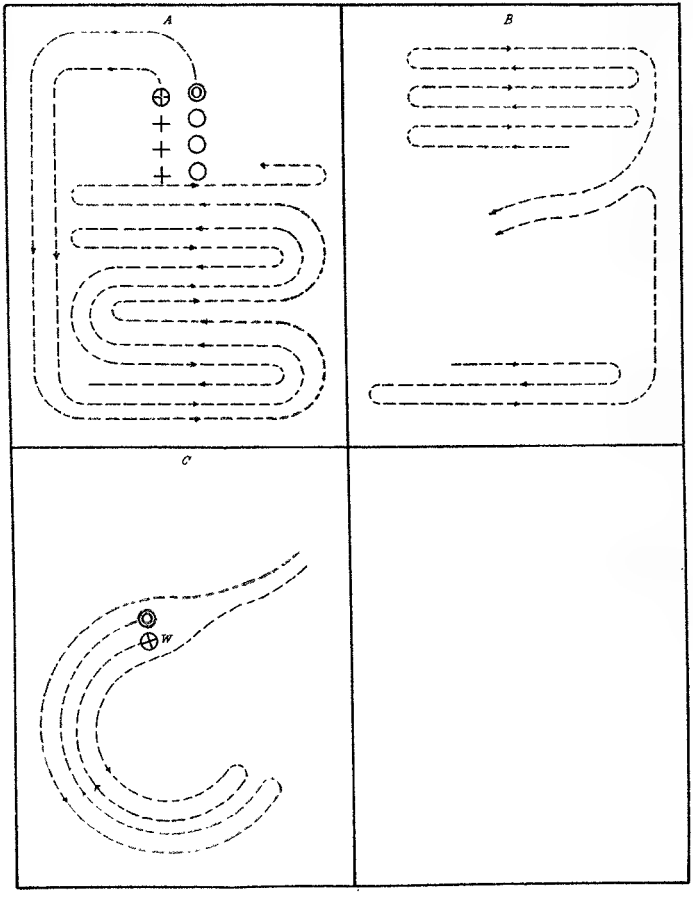
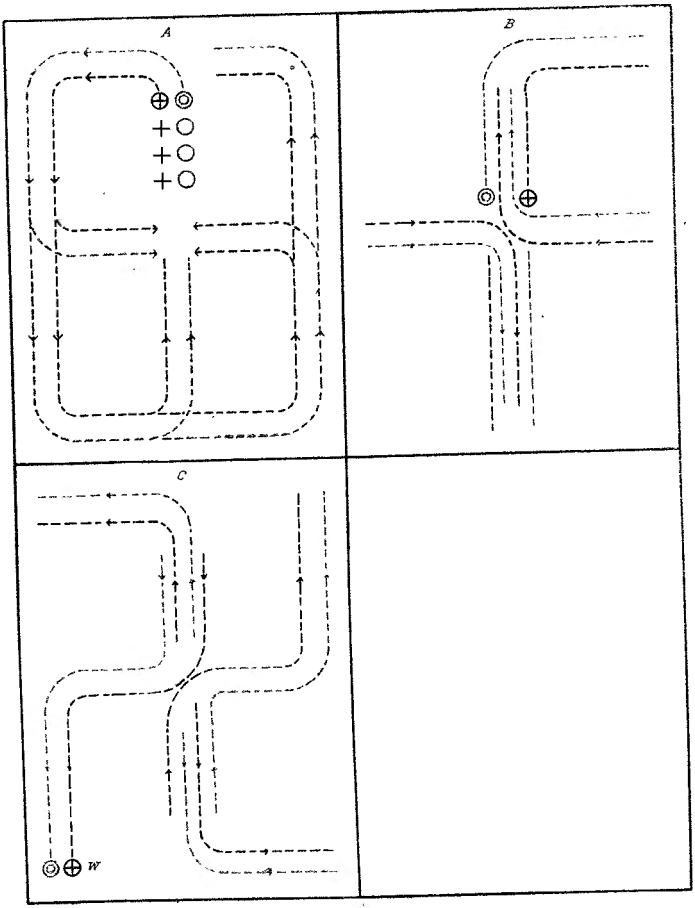

A
B
C
W

Figure No. 24.

"A." Leader counts couples before starting so as to divide them into four equal columns of twos. Couples turn to left and leader counts each column and leads them to position of cross in center of hall.

"B." Two of the columns form arches and the other two pass through as shown.

"C." Arched columns turn to opposite corners of hall and break.


A
B
C
W